

## **Zsolt Kálmán Virágos Is 70**

This special issue of Eger Journal of American Studies is dedicated to Zsolt Kálmán Virágos to congratulate him and to celebrate the distinguished professor, scholar, and highly honored teacher on his 70th birthday.

Zsolt Kálmán Virágos, professor of American Studies, head of the North American Department, director of the Institute of English and American Studies, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanity at the University of Debrecen, is a nationally and internationally acknowledged expert of American literary and cultural studies. His special fields of interest and research are: 19th- and 20th-century U.S. literature, literatures of American minorities, the iconography of American culture, prose literature of the American South, African–American literature and thought, ethnic and minority cultures in North America, myth and ideology in American culture and society, and a few more. He is a critic of myth criticism examining the usefulness of myth in today's literary theory and American social consciousness. His contribution to literary scholarship and culture laid down in 9 books, some edited volumes, and numerous studies and articles—3.250 printed pages—published in Hungary and abroad.

Besides being a scholar, an Americanist, Zsolt Kálmán Virágos is a teacher. Another area of his academic interest is methodology and language teaching. He was a teacher of English, a demonstration teacher for four years at Kossuth University's teacher training secondary school, and he taught methodology to students at the university. He co-authored four textbooks as a result of this. He was a successful and inspiring teacher in the secondary school, and he is a respected professor at the University of Debrecen. Generations of English- and American-major students studied under him and grow up on his books. He was a visiting professor and researcher at famous American and European universities.

His teaching and research are acknowledged and appreciated by his students, colleagues and Americanists in Hungary and beyond the border. He is an influential and leading scholar who made major professional contribution to American Studies in Hungary. He is the disciple of Professor László Országh, he began his scholarly career under his guidance. He is a dedicated representative of the “Országh school”.

On behalf of our faculty, I express my gratitude that he accepted my invitation and became a professor of the Department of American Studies at Eszterházy Károly College, Eger. His precious teaching and work are exemplary for both our teachers and students.

On his birthday colleagues, scholars, students, and friends, and all those who know and love him pay tribute to the outstanding lifework of the eminent scholar, teacher, master and mentor, and wish many happy returns, good health, and many more creative years of research, writing, teaching, and happiness with his family.

Lehel Vadon